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Message Text

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TRSE-00 SAJ-01 AEC-05 /044 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244206

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL

REF: USNATO 6072

1. WE AGREE WITH MISSION VIEW THAT DRAFT AGENDA OUTLINED REFTEL WHEN SUPPLEMENTED WITH RESTRICTED SESSION AND EUROGROUP ITEM INCLUDES APPROPRIATE TOPICS FOR MINISTERIAL. WE NOTE THAT NO MENTION IS MADE OF AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING BY DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, IMS; WHILE WE DO NOT INSIST ON ITS INCLUSION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE AS A USEFUL BACKGROUND TO MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION.

2. WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK IN RESTRICTED SESSION ON WHATEVER TOPICS THEY WISH. IN LIGHT OF TWO-DAY
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SESSION, MINISTERS MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO BEGIN WITH

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FULL SESSION TO HEAR INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING, REMARKS OF CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE, SUMMARY APPRAISAL BY SECRETARY GENERAL, AND POSSIBLY REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROGROUP, THEN GO INTO RESTRICTED SESSION, LEAVING REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS FOR AFTERNOON SESSION OR SECOND DAY.

3. WE SUPPORT MISSION VIEW THAT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

SHOULD BE TAKEN UP FOLLOWING FORCE PLANNING.

4. WE BELIEVE IT IS TOO EARLY TO SPECIFY EXACT TOPICS FOR RESTRICTED SESSION. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT ADVANCE INDICATION OF TOPICS WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED WOULD BE HELPFUL TO MINISTERS AND WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SECDEF INTENTIONS BY LATE NOVEMBER.

5. AT THIS POINT, WE SEE NO NEED FOR ANY ITEM ON NUCLEAR POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF CURRENT POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATE BRIEF MEETING OF NPG ABOUT TIME OF DPC.

6. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO EXPAND MINISTERIAL AGENDA UNDULY WITH STATUS REPORTS, PARTICULARLY IF COVERAGE CAN BE INCORPORATED IN SUMMARY APPRAISAL BY SECGEN. HOWEVER, DEVICE OF LISTING VARIOUS SUBJECTS AS SUB-ITEMS OF "STATUS REPORTS" ITEM MIGHT SIMPLIFY THEIR HANDLING AND SAVE MINISTERIAL TIME. WE DO ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO REPORTS ON RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION AND FLEXIBILITY.

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